

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ISLAMA 04889 121256Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00
USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 A-01
OPR-02 SY-05 AID-05 PC-01 /076 W
-----121308Z 055484 /44

O P 121201Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1592

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY

AMCONSUL KARACHI PRIORITY

AMCONSUL LAHORE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY

CINCPAC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 4889

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PK

SUBJECT: PRESSURES BUILD AGAIN ON PRIME MINISTER

1. WE ARE RECEIVING REPORTS THAT ANTI-BHUTTO AGITATION IS STEADILY INCREASING AND THE TEMPORARY LID ON OPPOSITION STREET ACTIVITIES, INITIATED WHEN UROWTAL LAW WAS DECLARED IN THREE CITIES, IS BEING FORCED OPEN. CONGENS KARACHI AND LAHORE HAVE REPORTED ON GROWING ANTI-GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES IN BOTH CITIES AND PROVINCES. PNA SUPPORTERS ARE BOLDER IN THEIR WILLINGNESS TO MARCH IN VIOLATION OF MILITARY IMPOSED CURFEWS. CONSULATE PESHAWAR REPORTS THAT PRO-PNA DEMONSTRATIONS ARE REGULARLY HELD IN PESHAWAR
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CITY. THERE SEEMS TO EXIST A TACIT AGREEMENT BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES AND THE OPPOSITION IN PESHAWAR THAT PROCESSIONS CAN TAKE PLACE, IN VIOLATION OF SECTION 144, PROVIDED THEY REMAIN PEACEFUL. WE HAVE REPORTED EARLIER ON RUMBLINGS IN THE TRIBAL AREAS.

2. LOCAL EMPLOYEES AND FOREIGN DIPLOMATS WHO HAVE RECENTLY

VISITED SUCH CITIES AS GUJRANWALLA NEAR LAHORE AND DERA ISMAIL KHAN IN SOUTHEASTERN FRONTIER PROVINCE ALSO REPORT NEARLY DAILY DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE PNA HOLDS REGULAR PROCESSIONS IN NUMEROUS TOWNS IN THE FRONTIER.

3. WE HAVE RESTRICTED OUR CONTACTS AND TRAVEL DURING THE CURRENT POLITICAL CONFRONTATION AND ANTI-AMERICAN ATMOSPHERE. ALSO, THROUGH CENSORSHIP THE GOVERNMENT HAS GENERALLY STOPPED THE DISSEMINATION OF NEWS ABOUT ANTI-GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES IN THE PRESS. EVEN THOUGH IT IS CONSEQUENTLY MORE DIFFICULT TO GAUGE THE FULL EXTENT OF OPPOSITION ACTIVITIES IN THE COUNTRY, IT SEEMS INCREASINGLY EVIDENT THAT BHUTTO GAINED A SHORT BREATHING SPACE BY IMPOSING MARTIAL LAW BUT THAT THE SECURITY SITUATION IS AGAIN UNRAVELING. LACKING A POLITICAL SETTLEDUPRT WITH THE OPPOSITION, THE PRESSURES ARE AGAIN BUILDING ON THE PRIME MINISTER, AND HE MUST BE ACTIVELY SEARCHING FOR NEW GAMFFVA, NO MATTER HOW TEMPORARY, TO REMAIN IN POWER.
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